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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1550, JANUARY 22, NOON.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1550, REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 493, MOSCOW 187,
LONDON 251, PARIS 496.

PARIS PASS USRO

CHANCELLOR REPORTED TO CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG FACTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MONDAY AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO CDU/CSU FACTION TUESDAY, WITH EVIDENT RELIEF, THAT THERE NO REPEAT NO CHANGE IN US VIEWS ON REUNIFICATION BY FREE ELECTIONS, AND THAT MIKOYAN VISIT HAD NEITHER BROUGHT ABOUT NOR REVEALED ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN POSITION US OR USSR. (DEFENSE MINISTER STRAUSS REMINDED PUBLIC IT WAS MIKOYAN WHO KEPT NEGOTIATIONS GOING WITH HUNGARIAN REBEL LEADERS UNTIL USSR WAS READY TO POUNCE ON THEM). CDU DEPUTIES NOW DISCLAIM ANY EARLIER CONCERN ABOUT MIKOYAN VISIT AND CDU PRESS OBSERVED IT UNDOUBTEDLY USEFUL FOR AMERICANS AND MIKOYAN TO HAVE A DIRECT LOOK AT EACH OTHER'S VIEWS AND FOR LATTER TO BE MADE AWARE AMERICAN DETERMINATION TO STAND BY COMMITMENTS IN GERMANY AND US WILLINGNESS MEET USSR SECURITY CONCERNS.

SPD, TOO, NOTES NOTHING MUCH CAME OF VISIT BUT STRESSES THAT SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON FREE ELECTIONS, WITH MIKOYAN'S PRESENCE IN MIND, WAS WELCOME BREAK IN AMERICAN RIGIDITY AND THAT IT NOW INCUMBANT ON FEDREP TAKE ADVANTAGE THIS AMERICAN FLEXIBILITY TO ADVANCE NEW IDEAS WHICH MUST BE IN DIRECTION EUROPEAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

FORSTER, FOREIGN OFFICE, (REUNIFICATION DESK) TOLD EMBASSY TODAY GERMANS REASSURED BY MIKOYAN'S PERFORMANCE AT HIS MONDAY PRESS CONFERENCE. THEY CONSIDER HIS SHIFT TO HARDER POSITION EVIDENCE HIS REALIZATION HE HAD NOT REPEAT NOT SUCCEEDED IN WEAKENING AMERICAN DETERMINATION MAINTAIN POSITION BERLIN. POINTING OUT THAT NEXT IMMEDIATE TASK WESTERN POWERS PREPARE REPLY SOVIET NOTES JANUARY 10, FORSTER STRESSED THAT WESTERN POWERS HAD TO BEAR IN MIND THAT NOTWITHSTANDING MIKOYAN'S DENIAL SOVIET ULTIMATUM ON BERLIN STILL LURKING IN BACKGROUND.

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-2- 1550, JANUARY 22, NOON, FROM BONN

FORSTER ADMITTED FRANKLY FEDREP STILL GROPING FOR IDEAS COUNTER SOVIET MANEUVERS. HE SAID FOREIGN OFFICE GROUP WORKING ON PROBLEM HEADED BY VON KESSEL AND INCLUDING FECHTER, RUETE, ONCKEN, THUS FAR HAS NOT REPEAT NOT PUT ANYTHING CONCRETE ON PAPER. NOW THAT BRENTANO AND DITTMANN BOTH BACK FORSTER SAID GROUP PROBABLY WILL HAVE FIRMER DIRECTION.

EMPHASIZING THAT IDEAS OF FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP STILL IN VERY FORMATIVE STAGES FORSTER SAID GERMANS BELIEVE THAT SOVIET STATEMENT IN JANUARY 10 NOTE SUGGESTING PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES PRIOR PEACE CONFERENCE PROVIDED SOME LEEWAY FOR FURTHER BARGAINING WITH USSR. HE MENTIONED CONSIDERATION ALSO BEING GIVEN TO EXTRACTING PORTIONS SOVIET PEACE TREATY PROPOSAL THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED BY WEST. HE SAID CASE IN POINT WAS SOVIET PROVISION ON FREE SPEECH, AND FREE ASSEMBLY, GUARANTEES WHICH MIGHT BE PROPOSED AS FIRST STAGE OF PROLONGED REUNIFICATION PROCESS, WITH SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT THAT OUTSIDE AGENCY BE DESIGNATED TO INSURE THAT THESE CONDITIONS ACTUALLY EXISTED IN FEDREP AND SOVIET ZONE.

FORSTER MENTIONED CHANCELLOR NO REPEAT NO LONGER INSISTING THAT SOVIET NOTE JANUARY 10 MUST BE "REJECTED" AND ASKED FOREIGN OFFICE PREPARE BASIS FOR MAKING "CONSTRUCTIVE" REPLY. HE CAUTIONED FOREIGN OFFICE HOWEVER THAT NOTE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SKETCH SPECIFIC COUNTERPROPOSALS SINCE THESE SHOULD BE HELD FOR PRESENTATION AT AN EAST-WEST MEETING. HE HAS NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATED SPECIFICALLY LINE REPLY TO TAKE BUT MENTIONED THAT DISARMAMENT MIGHT BE MOST APPROPRIATE THEME AT WESTERN MEETING WITH SOVIETS.

BRUCE

SC

